1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN
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4	THE ESTATE OF JESSIE MILLER,
5	by Robert Bertram, Special Administrator
6	and
7	WESLEY STEWART (a minor) and NAKITA FALKENSTEIN (a minor)
8	Plaintiffs,
9	-vs- Case No. 10-CV-807-WMC
10	RYAN TOBIASZ, OFFICER BATH, Madison, Wisconsin OFFICER HERBRAND, CAPTAIN November 21, 2012
11	JOHNSON, OFFICER MILLARD, 9:00 a.m. JANEL NICKEL, OFFICER QUADE
12	and SERGEANT SEVERSON,
13	Defendants.
14	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
15	STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPT OF TELEPHONIC MOTION HEARING HELD BEFORE CHIEF JUDGE WILLIAM M. CONLEY,
16	HELD BEFORE CHIEF OUDGE WILLIAM M. CONDET,
17	APPEARANCES:
18	For the Plaintiff: Gende Law Offices, S.C. BY: JAMES GENDE, II
19	CHRISTOPHER KATERS N28 W23000 Roundy Drive, Ste. 200
20	Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072
21	For the Defendants: Department of Justice BY: RICHARD BRILES MORIARTY
22	17 West Main Street Madison, Wisconsin 53703
23	radison, wisconsin 33/03
24	Lynette Swenson RMR, CRR, CBC Federal Court Reporter
25	U.S. District Court 120 N. Henry St., Rm. 520 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 255-3821

THE COURT: Hello. This is Judge Conley. I am calling Case Number 3:10-CV-807. The Estate of Jessie Miller versus -- I should say The Estate of Jessie Miller, et al. v. Ryan Tobiasz, et al. And I'll hear appearances for the plaintiff.

MR. GENDE: Morning, Your Honor. James
Gende --

THE COURT: I'm sorry, the sound wasn't quite up. James Gende. And was there someone else?

MR. KATERS: Christopher Katers. K-a-t-e-r-s.

THE COURT: Very good. And for the defendants.

MR. MORIARTY: Richard Briles Moriarty for the defendants. Nanette Scheel, a paralegal is also present.

THE COURT: Very good. I have before me a motion for protective order, and we'll style that as a general motion, as well as a motion for protective order regarding the Michlowski deposition. I'm going to take up the first of those motions, the general motion, and then we'll talk about Mr. Michlowski's specific situation.

I will start with the plaintiff who has brought this motion and simply say that -- I'm sorry, the defendant who has brought the motion --

MR. MORIARTY: Thank you.

THE COURT: -- and simply say that I am having trouble because you've given me but one example of a subject matter that you need protection from and I don't think I agree with the example, and that is with respect to discovery on policies and procedures that are in place with regard to suicidal subjects. My problem with the specific example is that I would think it would be appropriate at this point, given that the Seventh Circuit has confirmed, that we need to understand the circumstances surrounding the choices or the decision -- the choice to act or not to act by the defendants in order to understand whether they acted with deliberate indifference toward the -- towards Jessie Miller. And I will hear from the defendant on that subject.

MR. MORIARTY: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

The policies and procedures one I think you are

referencing is in -- is that the one in the Michlowski

notice? All policies and procedures related to inmates

at risk of suicide at the Wisconsin Resource Center?

THE COURT: Well, we'll come back to that.

MR. MORIARTY: Oh, okay.

THE COURT: I'm talking about generally that's the only example I have of something that you believe would go beyond the scope. You're past the point of arguing for general protections from discovery. If you

weren't past it with this Court's decision, you're certainly past it when the Seventh Circuit affirmed this Court's decision. And when I read your general motion is that except for asking the very specific question what did you know and when did you know it, there are no subjects which are appropriate for discovery and that's — that's not only going to prevail, it's going to get you sanctioned.

MR. MORIARTY: Your Honor, the defendants definitely have understood since the remand that some discovery would occur. Our point is that the Court had, in its September 11th order, indicated discovery is stayed except as is necessary to resolve the qualified immunity issues.

THE COURT: And then I went on to explain that it's hard to think of an area with respect to the facts surrounding this death that wouldn't be appropriate subject matter and the burden would be on you to identify it. And yet I'm presented with a 30-page brief which doesn't identify a single example.

MR. MORIARTY: I apologize if I've been -- I have not been precise, Your Honor. Let me try and do that here. In, for example, the October 22nd Second Request to Produce, they are asking for all emails referencing Jessie Miller for the 30 days prior to his

death and up -- after his death up until the notice of claim was filed. Now what we're talking about is the scope of proper discovery here. I'm looking at depositions that are being scheduled and notices that are being scheduled and what is being conveyed is that the plaintiffs are going to be seeking a broad range of discovery without focusing on what's necessary to resolve the qualified immunity issues.

For example, let's just assume that there's some emails that went back and forth at Wisconsin Resource Center, never got shared with CCI; emails went back and forth at CCI, were never shared with any of the defendants; how could that conceivably be, in my view, necessary to resolve the qualified immunity issues?

They're asking also for emails exchanged between participants of the mortality review. Well, that's -- we have a confidential mortality review. None of the defendants were involved in that. Mr. Gende knows that. It's -- it does seem to me that what we're looking at is a discovery situation that is way beyond what is appropriate.

Now I understand the Court, and I may disagree on what those limits are, but the Court did indicate that, and I think appropriately so, that discovery was to be limited to what is necessary to resolve the qualified

immunity issues. If -- I did see in the Court's order where you're saying well, essentially whatever is out there in liability could be encompassed. If, in fact, that's going to be the Court's order, then we would have a major disagreement which might require further action. But if we had -- let me pick out an example there.

If we did not have qualified immunity involved in this case at all, Mr. Gende could proceed with all sorts of discovery in all sorts of ways that would be completely unassociated with the actual suggested knowledge of any defendant and the -- and what actions they took so long as it could lead to relevant information. That would be the general standard.

In the qualified immunity setting, as we have put forth in the brief, it is required by Supreme Court authority that discovery be targeted, and so it cannot, on its face, in my view, if it's targeted, it can't be the same as the scope of overall liability discovery.

THE COURT: I would agree with you if the targeting had to do with damages. But right now we're trying to decide on liability and the standard in discovery is what information may lead to admissible evidence. Your position — even if I were to think there were merit in it, and there may be with regard to specifics, which I've yet to hear, but we'll come back

to that.

MR. MORIARTY: Okay.

THE COURT: Your position, which is simply we're not going to allow discovery until we agree on the exact parameters of that discovery, would halt virtually all discovery in all cases. It is obstructionist and I am going to sanction the defendants, but before I get to the sanction, I need to set parameters which you should have set by stating specific objections to individual questions.

Let's take the general example that you've given. Emails 30 days before 30 days after. I assume that isn't all emails that were sent within the Division of Corrections. Correct?

MR. MORIARTY: It says "produce all emails and/or documents, files, records or other documents referencing Jessie Miller for the 30 days prior to his death and after the death up until the notice of claim was filed on October 16th, 2009." And then it goes on to talk about the mortality review. There is no restriction at all --

THE COURT: Well Counsel, there is a restriction and it has to do discussing Jessie Miller.

MR. MORIARTY: Right. Yes.

THE COURT: Now let's just take the 30 days

before. What is your objection to producing all emails that were produced with respect to the deceased Jessie Miller before his death?

MR. MORIARTY: Well, that encompasses potentially all emails that are not just at the Department of Corrections, but the Department of Health Services. It is directed — there is a limitation in that it is directed towards the defendants, who have a limited amount of ability to get emails. But the way it's framed conveys that the plaintiffs intend to have a very broad scope.

The --

THE COURT: Mr. Moriarty.

MR. MORIARTY: Yes.

THE COURT: You put your clients and yourself behind the eight ball by taking the position that you've taken because not only have you delayed reasonable discovery, that is to say all emails related to Jessie Miller 30 days before his death, but now you've put me in the position where I have to order that you do it on an expedited basis.

MR. MORIARTY: Your Honor --

THE COURT: No, let me finish.

MR. MORIARTY: Sorry.

THE COURT: The government has difficulty

producing these kinds of documents even within the normal time frames and now you're going to have to tell me, because I am going to order that you produce all such documents, that you can't possibly pull all those documents together.

What efforts have you made to gather responsive documents in the 30 days before death?

MR. MORIARTY: Your Honor, might I say what I've been referencing is not yet due. No response is yet due.

THE COURT: Right. But when is it due?

MR. MORIARTY: It is due on Monday.

THE COURT: And do you have it all gathered?

MR. MORIARTY: We do have our materials -- we are in the process of finalizing our materials as we can, as it is directed, and we intend to respond appropriately to those issues.

THE COURT: And Mr. Moriarty, with respect to -- with respect to the 30 days before, are you producing all responsive documents?

MR. MORIARTY: We are producing all responsive documents to the extent that the defendants are obliged to do so.

THE COURT: And by defendants --

MR. MORIARTY: We do that without objection,

Your Honor.

THE COURT: And by defendants, you mean only those specifically named defendants.

MR. MORIARTY: That's what the -- yes. Those are the defendants in the case. Those are the people to whom the requests are directed. Those are the people over whom the Court has authority. And those are the people as to whom we will be responding.

THE COURT: All right. What about 30 days after? You obviously are going to object to the mortality review. What about other documents that were created, emails that were created after the fact?

MR. MORIARTY: As -- again, we plan -- our plan is to respond, to the extent that these defendants have the capability of responding. And frankly, I haven't framed the exact nature of the response and didn't expect to have -- to be defining that right now. But --

THE COURT: Well, do you understand my frustration as a court who is required to push discovery to completion on a timely basis with being presented with broad principles at a time when we need to get to the nuts and bolts of discovery?

MR. MORIARTY: I do, and that, Your Honor, with respect, is exactly what I'm trying -- I've been trying to do. I apologize if I've not done it well. I do

think we need to get to the nuts and bolts of the discovery issues here and what I had perceived, as I tried to convey through on my submissions, was that we were getting a broad ranging, unfocused, untargeted approach towards discovery from the plaintiffs and that we needed court guidance on where we were going, certainly before we started in on depositions.

Again, I apologize if the Court perceives it differently, but what I perceived was a number of messages from the plaintiffs. We don't see ourselves as bound at all, and in fact they conveyed we are doing discovery to try to find evidence that other dismissed defendants had notice, which is entirely separate from the quality immunity issue and anything that's appropriate on qualified immunity. But they conveyed that that's part of their purpose and what they intend to pursue.

THE COURT: And my problem, Mr. Moriarty, is that general principle may be the case, but there's going to be overlap between the two. For example, policies and procedures that are in place. Your clients may say one, they weren't aware of what those policies and procedures were; two, those policies and procedures were followed; three, those policies and procedures don't apply. But we need to know what the policies and

procedures were with respect to these defendants.

 $$\operatorname{MR.}$$ MORIARTY: I understand, Your Honor, and I'm sorry. Now I'm understanding where the confusion lies.

I believe you're looking at the plaintiffs' first set of discovery requests. We responded fully to those first set of discovery requests, providing all of those policies and procedures. Those have already been given to them. October 22nd. Before the due date. And that was without objection. We responded fully to the plaintiffs' first set of discovery requests, including those policies and procedures. Even though there were questions and requests in there that in our view went beyond the proper scope of qualified immunity, we raised no objections whatsoever. We responded fully.

I don't know if that changes the way the Court is looking at it, but that -- we're not -- we already -- there is no discovery that has been delayed by the defendants at all. We have been proceeding first off with responding fully to the first set of discovery requests.

Second. We got -- we have now a second set of discovery requests and two more that the Court isn't even aware of. We intend to respond on a timely basis to each of those discovery requests. We were asked to

set depositions, to arrange for depositions. We made those arrangements, and we went through a lot of effort, came up with available dates, presented them to counsel, and now we have depositions set.

We have problems with the messages that have been sent and the potential scope and that's why we brought it to the Court's attention before things exploded, because I perceived explosions coming up during the depositions themselves primarily, but we have complied fully with discovery requests and haven't delayed anything.

THE COURT: Very good, Mr. Moriarty. I'm delighted to hear it. Then your general motion with respect to your roman numeral I for the Court to prophylactically set the limit of scope of disclosure and discovery to certain matters and prescribed discovery methods will be denied. The Court is available on very short notice to address unreasonable specific positions by either side. I deny it not because there are no limits to discovery, but because I am not going to rule on a hypothetical.

If and when you get to specific problems, the Court is readily available. You should call my chambers. I will make myself available and we will quickly dispatch any individual problems that may present themselves for

discovery.

Now, as to roman numeral II, which is a request to address the location of depositions, when you said,

Mr. Moriarty, that you set -- you established dates for the depositions, where were you proposing? And I don't mean generally, I mean very specifically where were you proposing they take place?

MR. MORIARTY: Thank you. Our proposal is that each deponent --

THE COURT: Don't tell me where they're located. Tell me exactly where the depositions were located.

MR. MORIARTY: All right. There is on file, I'm trying to get to it, a document that has the location.

THE COURT: Well, let's take a specific example. With respect to Mr. Tobiasz.

MR. MORIARTY: Yes.

THE COURT: Where were you proposing his deposition be taken?

 $$\operatorname{MR.}$$ MORIARTY: At Columbia Correctional Institution at Portage, Wisconsin where he is working. The reason --

THE COURT: Hang on, Mr. Moriarty. We're almost there. You've almost given me the answer we're

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looking for.
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             MR. MORIARTY: Waupun. Waupun. I'm sorry.
             THE COURT: Where at Waupun? The Court is
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    familiar with that facility.
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             MR. MORIARTY: It would be -- I don't know that
   we have the exact room within Waupun, but it would be --
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             THE COURT: Well, tell me between the lockdown
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    area and the area generally available, where would it be
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    located?
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             MR. MORIARTY: As far as I'm aware right now,
    Your Honor, and I have limited knowledge because I can't
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    say for sure, I haven't gotten that, but my
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   understanding from prior experience is is that it would
   be a conference room outside of the locked -- excuse me.
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    Can I just check with that Nanette and she has some
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16
   knowledge of that.
             THE COURT: I would appreciate it.
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             MR. MORIARTY: Thank you. Nanette is going to
    tell you what she recalls from prior times.
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             THE COURT: Very good.
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            MS. SCHEEL: As soon as you walk into the
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    facility, Your Honor, you walk up two flights of stairs
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    and the conference room is right on that level.
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             THE COURT: So they're not going through any
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security.

MS. SCHEEL: No. And that's typical for going into a correctional institution, you don't --

THE COURT: No, no. Thank you very much for your answer. I know what's typical. I just wanted an answer.

MR. MORIARTY: Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you. Now with respect to the plaintiff, I'll hear from you why -- well, actually I guess, Mr. Moriarty, are you proposing that the plaintiffs go hither and now to each of the institutions to take these depositions?

MR. MORIARTY: That is the proposal that we —
THE COURT: Well, that's absurd and it's
offensive and it's not going to be required of the
plaintiff. If you want to gather people in a central
location, that's reasonable. But you know, there's got
to be some limit — having qualified immunity doesn't
mean that you get to put the plaintiffs through every
hoop. It doesn't change the basic nature of discovery
and it doesn't make your defendants subject to a special
set of discovery rules, which is what you're suggesting.

Now, I'm somewhat sympathetic to the notion they have all to traipse down to Milwaukee for these depositions because there is some reasonable position that ought to be reached by the parties and I'm shocked

that I'm sitting here spending my day discussing something that should have been resolved by the parties.

So I will turn to the defendants -- I'm sorry, to the plaintiff and ask do you have some compromise position? Because your position of asking them all to come to Milwaukee to be deposed is not something the Court is prepared to answer, notwithstanding the fact that it arguably is within the 100 miles that you're entitled to insist upon in ordinary discovery.

MR. GENDE: Thank you, Your Honor. James Gende on behalf of plaintiffs. We have offered several compromises to Mr. Moriarty's clients.

THE COURT: So why don't you offer one now to the Court so we can get moving.

MR. GENDE: Okay. I suggested that for any high level officials we would go to Madison and handle it at Mr. Moriarty's office.

THE COURT: All right. All depositions of the defendants in this case will be handled in Madison at the Attorney General's Office. That's the Court's order.

Now I believe then that addresses roman numeral II of the general motion for protective order. Anything further, Mr. Moriarty, with respect to your general motion that you believe the Court has not addressed?

MR. MORIARTY: I believe the Court has addressed what I have raised, yes.

THE COURT: All right. I will sanction the defendants \$100 for bringing this general motion without focus to the specific disputes in this case. There is nothing unusual about these basic disputes. There should have been a compromise reached by the parties. While I think the defendants may have been acting in good faith, it was obstructionist and they should be sanctioned, if for no other reason than I'm sending a message to both sides that I do not expect this kind of lack of cooperation to continue and both sides will be subject to additional monetary sanctions if it continues.

Now, as to the motion for protective order regarding Michlowski's deposition, tell me exactly what it is that you're asking the Court for, Mr. Moriarty.

MR. MORIARTY: As to Dr. Michlowski, he is a dismissed defendant, a nonparty, who was and remains at Wisconsin Resource Center, a separate department from the Department of Corrections. He is not — both the notice and the subpoena convey that plaintiffs intend to pursue a lot of information that has — and I appreciate the Court's order and I'm not going to belabor that, but when you are seeking to depose a doctor at a separate

institution run by a separate department and require him to produce all policies and procedures related to inmates at risk of suicide at the WRC at any time, going way back in time, any documents including emails exchanged between yourself and any other person besides an attorney as it relates to Jessie Miller at any time, and Jessie Miller was at WRC for quite a long time, well over a year, it appeared to us that this deposition was far beyond appropriate limits in this qualified immunity setting.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Gende, why do you need this deposition at this time? And why would it encompass all procedures at a facility that was not the location of the suicide?

MR. GENDE: Thank you, Your Honor. We withdrew that request on all policies and procedures in an attempt to compromise the discovery disputes that Mr. Moriarty had raised. We substantially reduced our requested emails regarding Jessie Miller, and I believe it's in an email that may be before the Court. I think we wanted emails, again, 30 days before and his attempts to communicate -- I'm sorry, Michlowski's attempts to communicate his understanding of Jessie Miller's serious medical condition, suicidal tendencies and self-harming behavior. He indicated in chart notes before transfer

that Jessie Miller should be watched. We'd like to talk to him about who he spoke with at the facility.

Apparently there were some phone calls made between WRC and CCI staff.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Moriarty. Sounds extremely reasonable to me. What about to you?

 $$\operatorname{MR.}$$ MORIARTY: All right. If it is limited to communications between Dr. Michlowski and people at CCI --

THE COURT: No, no. That's not how this is going to happen.

MR. MORIARTY: All right.

THE COURT: If you want to insert an objection --

MR. MORIARTY: Um-hmm.

THE COURT: -- during the deposition because something has gone beyond the scope of discovery, you may do so and you will suffer the consequence if you are viewed by this court to be obstructionist. But I've just been told that they offered to narrow their discussion, and it seems eminently reasonable to me. It's been represented to me that they did so in writing, and I am having trouble understanding why we are not proceeding with discovery at this point.

MR. MORIARTY: Understood, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. This motion is also -MR. MORIARTY: Your Honor, might I --

THE COURT: No, you may not. This motion is also denied and the deposition of Dr. Michlowski will go forward subject to the general rules of discovery as to relevance.

Now Mr. Moriarty, you're free to draw the line where you think it applies as to good faith, but you do so with an obligation as a court officer not to obstruct reasonable discovery and a basis for objection is not that this might lead to liability for others. It's that it doesn't relate to the potential lack of good faith; i.e., deliberate indifference from or by the defendants in this case.

Now Mr. Moriarty, do you have anything further for the Court today?

MR. MORIARTY: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: Mr. Gende, please don't misunderstand the Court's rulings today. While I have been hard on Mr. Moriarty because I am being asked to rule on hypotheticals and draw lines that cannot be drawn because they implicitly involve gray areas, I am not giving the plaintiffs carte blanch to ask anything and everything they may think of, and certainly not to get into damages questions or to go beyond the scope of

what these defendants knew or should have known, whether it was with respect to policies or procedures or with respect to the circumstances surrounding the suicide that is the subject of this matter.

Are we clear?

MR. GENDE: Crystal.

THE COURT: Very good. Then I thank you all and I anticipate cooperation by both sides going forward. But I am available on short notice should someone deem it necessary to involve the Court further. Thank you all.

MR. MORIARTY: Thank you, Your Honor. (Proceedings ended at 9:33 a.m.)

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I, LYNETTE SWENSON, Certified Realtime and Merit Reporter in and for the State of Wisconsin, certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings held on the 21st day of November 2012 before the Honorable William M. Conley, Chief Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin, in my presence and reduced to writing in accordance with my stenographic notes made at said time and place.
Dated this 26th day of November 2012.

/s/___

Lynette Swenson, RMR, CRR, CBC Federal Court Reporter